

Missouri House of Representatives

Martin "Bubs" Hohulin

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January 17, 2002

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 – 12th St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Mr. Powell:

I am contacting you to ask for your support of the Echostar/Direct TV merger. The benefits to consumers will mean more programming choices and competitive pricing. This merger is approved by the F.C.C. and D.O.J. and will provide an excellent alternative to cable TV. Today cable TV controls nearly 80% of the pay TV household market with little or no competition, because of their franchises. Real competition will only keep rapid growing cable prices down and be an incentive for them to give the consumer better service.

The underserved rural areas will also benefit from the merger because of the potential use of interactive TV and broadband Internet access in schools and businesses. The cost to install cable in rural areas is very high, and Direct Broadcast Satellite TV is relatively cheap since it is a simple matter of hooking a small satellite dish to your TV, the infrastructure is already in place. I encourage you to look at the facts and hope you can support this merger.

Thank you for your consideration in looking into this matter.

Sincerely,

Bubs Hohulin

(transcription – original on file in legislator's office)